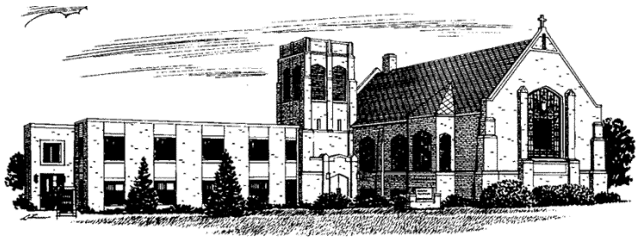


The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Chime Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

All are welcome!

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

February 2014

On my table at home are a number of plastic cups filled with varying combinations of dirt, sand, and Perlite. Each also contains a cutting from my crown of thorns plant. The original plant is one I received from my grandmother. I've had it for years and years. Through my neglect, the plant is now misshapen, lopsided, spindly and in need of pruning. My fear is that I will kill it altogether; so, having consulted the "how-to" resources, I am seeing if I can begin new plants, in case the original does not survive.

Perhaps, I do this out of its own need (the Schefflera plant is next!), or the desire for springtime. In either case there is a sense of hope that what comes next will be healthier, stronger. So, it is with our faith – sometimes strong, but other times lopsided, wilting, in need of help. Always, there is hope. As Christians our hope is in the crucified and risen Savior, the one who loves us enough to prune us, nourish us, and transform us, as evidenced already in Jesus' first "sermon" in Matthew's Gospel, known to us as the Sermon on the Mount.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection we are a new creation, ready to share his love with the world. We do so with the promise of God's presence. As Jesus tells us, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Pastor Joan

Also….
Jim and I wish to thank you for all the kind wishes and gifts at Christmas time. Your love and support is treasured as we share in Christ's ministry together. Thanks!

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –
We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arlene Malkin** is at the Lakeland Continuing Care Center, 3425 Lakeshore Dr., St. Joseph MI 49085; **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ruth Harris** is at Lakeland's Berrien Center Campus, 6418 Dean's Hill Road; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Elvera Freier** is at Crownpointe Senior Living, Stevensville; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at home.

Serving in the military:
Ed Standen – Charleston, SC
Marko Wedde – North Carolina
Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.

Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Memorial Service for Doris Granger
11:00 AM Friday, February 7

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
9420 Portage Rd
Portage MI 49002
with lunch to follow at the church

We extend our sympathy to Doris' son and wife, Dan and Laurie, as well as grandchildren, Kristen Henderson and Heather Pudell and their families.

We extend our sympathy to the friends and family of John A. Olson, former member of Saron, upon his death. John and his wife Peggy moved to Tarpon Springs, FL upon retirement.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in February Birthday Wishes

Feb. 2 - Makayla Bradley
Lindsay Gilmore-Gaspari
5 - Jerry Stelling
Erin Vollmer
6 - Laurie Granger
Linda Dipert
Mary Alice Brunner
8 - Ernst Knauf
Krystina Walker
10 - Aiden Ashley
12 - Nathan Brown
15 - Kellie Maly
Robert King
21 - Ryan Talbert
Bob Seymour
22 - Darlene Kiessel
23 – Rachel Mannisto
26 - Wendy King
28 - Cheryl Houser

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in February…

Feb. 20 - Ivan and Darlene Kiessel

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

New Members

We welcome our new members, Debra Adams-Hurst and Bill and Donna Rohweder, who were received at worship on January 19.

Debra

Donna and Bill

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday February 2
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15 (1)
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday February 9
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10] (4)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday February 16
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8 (1)
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday February 23
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40 (33)
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

Prayer

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which will include lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Thank you

We give thanks to God for the Rev. David Slater who preached and presided at worship on Dec. 29.

Rev. Slater also introduced us to his friend Drama Dearie.

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will be on February 1st, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day

You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

High School and Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:40 in the lounge. Presently, we are watching the DVD series entitled *Lost Christianities* which considers the varieties of belief and practice in the early days of Christianity.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Join us for a new Bible study on the book of Galatians. We meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 am. The study begins February 6 and will run 4 weeks. The cost of the book is $4.25.

Paul's letter to the Galatians could easily be considered one of the most radical book in the New Testament. It shows Paul at his most youthful, least understated and most non-compromising.

1st Sunday Book Club

Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, February 9th, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge.** Please note the change of date to the second Sunday in February. (Sometimes football trumps all.)

The book is ***Saturday*** by Ian McEwan. The central idea of this novel presented to us all in one day is this: What moment, gone a different way, might have resulted in a different outcome? Henry Perowne, a urbane, priviledged, successful neurosurgeon with a loving family, lives this premise and takes the reader along on a very emotional ride.

Come and express your opinion of this book with other readers. The discussion should be a good one. The up-coming book for March is **Wild** by Cheryl Strayed, so keep that in mind. Questions? Call Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

March 2*; The Light Between Oceans*, by M.L. Stedman
April 6*; Wild*, by Cheryl Strayed
May 4*; Room* , by Emma Donoghue
October 5*; The End of Your Life Book Club*, by Will Schwalbe

Outreach

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

A big thank you to Kathie Bradley for organizing our Soup Kitchen day on December 26, 2013. The Soup Kitchen is open every day of the year, reminding us that hunger doesn't stop for Holidays. Also thank you to Dave Bradley, Ivan and Darlene Kiessel, Ruth Ball , Marlene Schalon and her daughter Jennifer, for serving Saron's meal. Our December cookie bakers were: Amanda Bradley, Sue Bailey, Denise Cook, Kathy Cowall, Darlene Kiessel, Linda Pater, Frieda Williams, and Joyce Marquardt :)

The Soup Kitchen has a Wish List for the following items: GROUND COFFEE, DICED TOMATOES, TOMATO SAUCE, SPAGHETTI SAUCE, COFFEE CREAMER, AND BARBEQUE SAUCE. If you bring these items to church I will make sure that they get delivered to the Soup Kitchen.
Thank you so much,
Jan Stevens

Donations of cans of fruit, large or small, are always welcome and needed for our days at the kitchen. Please bring your contributions to the church. Thank you! Also, 28-30 dozen cookies are needed each month!!! So, if you like to bake..... , call me!!

Thanks, Jan Stevens 429-2044

Meet Me at the Freezer

Meals are available for anyone to take to someone who might need one. Enjoying a visit and providing a meal is a wonderful way to tell someone that YOU CARE! The meals are in the freezer in Saron's dining room! If you would like to be involved when we cook again, please contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044.

Blood Drive

Blood Drive is coming up!
Date : February 17th (Monday)
Time: 2:00pm to 6:00pm
Place: Saron's dining room

Come enjoy all the terrific treats!

Further information will be forthcoming as to when to sign up.

Used Eye Glass **Collection**

Thank you Saron Lutheran Church! With your kind donation of eye glasses the St. Joseph Township Lions were able to collect 5641 eye glasses this year, we collected the most in our district and came in second for members in the club per glass count. Our collecting doesn't stop here, we are still collecting for next years challange. So, if you have any used eye glasses that are just sitting around collecting dust, bring them to church and put them in the box. Thanks,
Keith Stevens

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Flowers for Worship

Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. You can pick up your flowers after worship on Sunday morning. The florist appreciates the return of the vases for future use.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle will be held at the home of Deborah Standen on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Linda Pater will lead the Bible study lesson.

Installation of Officers

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. We like to have something after both early and late services. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Youth

Mission Trip Planned

Our High School Youth and their parents plan a Mission Trip for June 2014. The group will be spending a week in Racine, WI. More details will follow!

Our youth put their creativity to work with their ice cream creations!

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

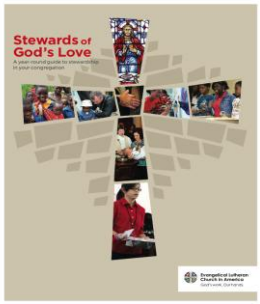
If you know you'll be missing services any time during the year due to travel, living in another location during certain times of the year or other commitments, please consider setting up automatic contributions. Your consistent support is very much appreciated. Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thanks.

Members wishing to make Stock Donations to Saron may have their Brokers Direct the Stock to –

SCOTTRADE INC.
7135 Heritage Square Suite 350
Granger, IN. 46530

DTC #4745
For the Account of SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Scottrade - Phone #1-877-746-1980



Stewards of God's Love

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39

DOWN: RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

February: Stewards of Creation

"In creation, God gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth and all that is in it. God is the owner; we are stewards. Creation is our first stewardship. How might we steward and care for the earth so as to sustain it for future generations?"
**www.elca.org/growingstewards, page 18*

As we look out our windows at the beauty of the snow-covered earth around us, it's sometimes difficult to think beyond the shoveling, snow blowing and danger of ice and wind. As **stewards** there is much we can do to "sustain" and "care for the earth" even in winter. I imagine most of us reduce, reuse and recycle in some way, we certainly consider ways to conserve water and energy use, some walk to church as weather permits (!), and we may buy Fair Trade items which help individual producers in foreign lands receive fair pay.

During **Lent**, Saron will take part in the ELCA's Good Gifts initiative called **"Livestock for Lilies".** Instead of buying lilies (or in addition to lilies) we can purchase pigs, chicks, goats, sheep or honey bees and help families living in poverty escape hunger, grow crops, and provide income. Hopefully, our "cross board" will be covered with paper pigs, chicks, goats, etc. symbolizing how many gifts have been donated by our congregation.

As stewards of God's creation may we continue to do God's work with our hands and resources.

Council News

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

Attendance Record	
12/22/2013	*84*
12/29/2013	*72*
01/05/2014	*55*
01/12/2014	*107*
01/19/2014	*91*

Saron's Council Members – January 2013

Dave Bradley (427-7083) – President
*Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President, Outreach**
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer, Support
John Taylor (515-720-2124) – Secretary, Worship, Youth*
*Steve Bell (429-0239) – Facilities**
*Wendy King (429-2701) – Learning**
*Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Youth**
*Connor Ashley – (269-282-6709) – Youth**
*John Hoodlebrink (408-1960) – Support**
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Hospitality, Worship*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Hospitality, Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office; 983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEEDS HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren or Bill Oleson.

Interested in stories of the ELCA at work?
Check out *http://www.elca.org/living-lutheran/* to read daily conversations about what it means to live Lutheran. **Living Lutheran**, a ministry of the ELCA, includes blogs, videos and member voices.

Living Water Ministries
A Shared Mission of the Lower Michigan Synods, ELCA

It's time to think about summer and camp! Check out our synod's camping ministry at the following website. http://www.elcalivingwater.com/
There is something for everyone! Registration is now open! Brochures are also available at church.

Volunteers Needed

Benton Harbor Area Schools are looking for tutors for students, grade 1-8. Interested in this 1 hour/week commitment? Check out the S.M.A.R.T. Tutor Program and/or register at www.bhas.org/smart or call Jan Stevens at 429.2044 for more information. A new 8-week session begins on February 3.

Lay Assistants for February - 2014

Feb. 2 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/Com.Assist: Dana Riley
Acolyte: Danielle Hohman
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Feb. 9 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Intinction: John Hoodlebrink
Ushers: Allen Snyder and Jim Manore
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Feb. 16 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader/ Com. Assist: Sue Rood
Acolyte: Troy Burrow
Ushers: John Olson and Fritz Knauf
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Feb. 23 **8:30 a.m.**
Assisting Minster: Jan Stevens
Reader/Intinction: Wendy King
Acolyte: Tim Standen
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer.
Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

Feb. 2 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Catherine Ravitch
Reader/Com.Assist: Bob Kynast
Acolyte: Drew Huff
Ushers: Dave and Katie Bradley
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Marilyn Klann
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

Feb. 9 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Connor Ashley
Reader/Intinction: Mary Kynast
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Acolyte: Colin Ashley
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Linda Huff
Building Closing: **Bruce Huff**

Feb. 16 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minister: Denise Cook
Reader/ Com. Assist: Brian Culverhouse
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Ushers: Andy and Joyce Marquardt
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Krin Jurgensen
Building Closing: **Jerry and Ruth Stelling**

Feb. 23 **11:00 a.m.**
Assisting Minster: Bill Oleson
Reader/Intinction: Frieda William
Acolyte: Connor Ashley
Ushers: Ken Ark and Ivan Kiessel
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Marilyn Lucy
Building Closing: **Ken Ark**

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

February 2014

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Saron's Courtyard – a Winter Wonderland

FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				*1* 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
2 *H. Com./Children's Ser.* *4th Sunday after the Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	*3* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	*4*	*5* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	*6* 9:30am Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	*7*	*8*
9 *Intinction/Child.Ser.* *5th Sunday after the Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Club (change of date)	*10* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group **Newsletter Articles Due**	*11*	*12* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Deborah Circle	*13* 9:30am Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	*14* *Valentine's Day*	*15* 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m Saron Church Council Meeting .
16 *H.Com./Children's* *6th Sunday after the Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	*17* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 2:00pm to 6:00pm Blood Drive	*18* 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron	*19* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	*20* 9:30am Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	*21*	*22*
23 *Intinction/Child.Ser* *7th Sunday after the Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Sunday Church School Classes	*24* 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	*25*	*26* 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	*27* 9:30am Bible Class 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	*28*	